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THE SECOND and enlarged edition has reached us of a compact and handy little flora of the East Frisian islands,<sup>1</sup> which lie like a barrier off the coast of Holland and East Friesland. After a brief account of the flora, suitable keys to the families of angiosperms are followed by concise description of the species. We should be glad to see some such floras of parts of this country.

### NOTES AND NEWS.

AN INTERESTING account of the Ray herbarium is given by Mr. James Britton in the *Journal of Botany* for April.

REV. ARTHUR C. WAGHORNE, of Newfoundland, is offering sets of Newfoundland and Labrador plants for sale. The plants are authoritatively named and include cryptogamic material. His address is at New Harbor.

BULLETINS 31-40, of the Botanical Department of Jamaica, in addition to much useful information concerning matters that directly pertain to the Public Gardens and Plantations, contain a continuation of the synoptical list of the Ferns of Jamaica, by Superintendent Jenman, including descriptions of new species.

DR. KARL PRANTL'S work in the preparation of the great "Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien" will be continued by Dr. Engler alone. Parts 80 and 81 of this work, just issued, contain Rhizophoraceæ by Schimper, Myrtaceæ by Niedenzu, Sterculiaceæ by Schumann, Dilleniaceæ and Ochnaceæ by Gilg, and Eucryphiaceæ by Focke.

THE GAZETTE would be glad to give the names and addresses of all botanists who are to be at the World's Fair in charge of exhibits, so that visiting botanists may readily find them. The form of announcement will be as follows:

DR. CHARLES F. MILLSPAUGH: in charge of West Virginia Forestry Exhibit: intersection main aisles, Forestry Building.

THE SECOND publication of the Botanical Survey of Nebraska, which is being conducted by the Botanical Seminar of the State University, makes a report on collections made in 1892. It includes notes and lists of plants from the Sand Hill region of Sheridan and Cherry counties, notes on the cañon flora of Sioux county, and miscellaneous additions to the state flora, together with new or noteworthy species.

A BIOGRAPHICAL sketch of the late Dr. J. S. Newberry, prepared by Dr. N. L. Britton, appears in the *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* for March, including a fine portrait and full bibliography of his botanical writings. A plate of Torrey's genus *Newberrya* is also given. The sketch is written by one of Dr. Newberry's associates, who had abund-

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<sup>1</sup> BUCHENAU, FRANZ.—*Flora der Ostfriesischen Inseln.* 12mo. pp. viii, 176. Norden u. Norderney; H. Braams. 1891.

ant opportunity to know his worth. Although more strictly a geologist, Dr. Newberry's contributions to botany are surprisingly numerous, especially in the field of paleobotany. His connection with some of the early and important exploring expeditions enabled him to do much service to botany in the way of plant collections, no less than ten living species being named in his honor, in addition to the genus referred to. Of the 197 titles included in his bibliography, 39 are credited to botany.

DR. OTTO KUNTZE, having returned from his South American trip, asks that the international committee on botanical nomenclature give him opportunity to demonstrate what he calls "the absurdities of the Genoa Congress." There can be no doubt but that any botanist who has anything to say concerning nomenclature will be gladly heard. The committee is simply a representative body, and is merely intended to formulate the opinion of the majority of working botanists.

THE WELL-KNOWN naturalist and explorer of Brazil, Central America and Mexico, August B. Ghiesbreght, died on the 7th of February, in the eighty-second year of his age. In numerous and prolonged travels throughout all parts of tropical America Ghiesbreght has brought to light great numbers of new and interesting plants, and his collections enrich all of the principal herbaria and gardens of the world. A glance at the monumental "*Biologia Centrali-Americana*" is sufficient to show the vast extent of his labors, which are commemorated by the specific names of many plants and animals and especially in the arboreous fig-wort, *Ghiesbreghtia grandiflora*, which Dr. Gray dedicated to him.

MR. HENRY E. SEATON, Assistant Curator of the Gray Herbarium at Harvard University, died suddenly April 30th. He was a young botanist of unusual promise. In the summer of 1891 he made a botanical exploration of Mt. Orizaba, and had just completed a study of his material for distribution. In connection with Dr. Coulter he had determined the Compositae of Mr. John Donnell Smith's Guatemalan collection, and during this past winter, in connection with Dr. Robinson, determined the last Pringle collection, which has just been distributed. Trained thoroughly in modern methods he was bringing to the study of systematic botany the knowledge of general morphology which it so much demands, and systematists can ill afford to lose such carefully prepared young men.

THE DEATH of Alphonse De Candolle, April 4th, at his home in Geneva, in his eighty-seventh year, removes not only one of the oldest but one of the greatest of the botanists of our time. His long life of incessant activity, continuing the labors and reputation of his father, Auguste Pyramus De Candolle, has left the science of botany greatly his debtor. His name must always be familiar to students of systematic botany, both on account of the numerous monographs that he either prepared or directed, and because of the important *Lois de la Nomenclature Botanique* which he formulated in 1867 for the Paris Congress, and which is now referred to as the "Paris Code." The extent of his labors is marvelous, and when one comes to put together his bibliography it seems impossible that one man could have accomplished so much. That monumental work, the *Prodromus*, was be-

gun by his father in 1824, under whose direction seven volumes were published. The remaining ten volumes bear the name of Alphonse De Candolle, and when the dicotyledons had been completed, and the work as originally planned discontinued, under the same untiring direction seven volumes entitled *Monographiae Phanerogamarum* appeared as a continuation in fact if not in form. Of the usefulness of this greatest production of the De Candolles it is not necessary for any systematist to speak. It is not merely useful, it is indispensable. De Candolle's name will also always be associated with geographical botany, for his *Geographie Botanique* (1855) is one of the classics of that subject. In 1880 he published his *La Phytophotographie*, an exceedingly useful book, packed full of life-long experience and information. It would be useless to attempt to even mention all his work. He was more than a self-centered writer, for even in his advancing years his enormous correspondence kept him in constant and kindly touch with the younger generation of botanists, and his frank and helpful letters were written without stint. The name of De Candolle is worthily perpetuated in the son Casimir, and the family record of three generations of distinguished botanists is a wonderful one.

DR. DANIEL C. EATON, of Yale University, and Mr. Edwin Faxon, of Jamaica Plain, propose to issue in about two years sets of specimens of North American Sphagna. The number of species attributed to the United States and British America is now nearly fifty, and many of them have never been distributed. For anything like a full series, there should be about one hundred and thirty forms in the collection. Not less than sixty sets of the specimens will be prepared and a set will be given to each person who may supply three or more acceptable forms in quantity sufficient for distribution. The remaining sets will be used for foreign exchanges, and for sale. Promises of assistance have been received already from collectors, and others, and there is every reason to hope that the collection may be made to include nearly all the known species of temperate North America. Any species that are in the least degree doubtful will be submitted to Dr. C. Warnstorf, for final determination. The coöperation of American botanists is respectfully asked for. Letters or collections may be addressed to either of the above named.

ISAAC BURK, our best authority on Philadelphia ballast plants, and long prominently connected with the botanical work of the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences, died March 29th, in his 77th year. On account of poor health and the need of out-door employment he had charge for over thirty years of a *Philadelphia Ledger* route. He was a student of botany from boyhood, and all his leisure time was occupied in making collections and in study of natural science. He arranged a large part of the collection belonging to the Philadelphia Academy, of which he was a life member. In 1880 he presented his private collection to the Biological Department of the University of Pennsylvania. It is there maintained as a separate collection, and is specially rich in local and ballast plants. He was the author of a series of articles on the flora of Fairmount Park, published in the *Ledger* just before the Centennial. Several of his papers also appeared in the *Proceedings of the Phil. Acad.* Dr. Wm. H. Burk, botanist of the Peary expedition is his son.

IN 1890, Prof. Fr. Elfving, of Helsingfors, gave a communication on physiological action at a distance, showing a remarkable kind of movements that took place in the sporangium-bearers of *Phycomyces*, when exposed to the influence of certain bodies placed in their neighborhood, such as metals of different kinds, etc. Iron attracts the growing sporangium-bearers very distinctly; less noticeable was the effect of zinc and aluminium; gold, silver, nickel, lead, and copper, etc., had no effect, but roots of several common plants, *Vicia*, *Phaseolus*, *Pisum*, and others, as well as sealing wax, rosin, and smooth paper, had a very marked effect, attracting the sporangium-bearers more or less. The filaments mutually repulsed one another. Elfving thought that electricity probably was active here. Prof. Errera, of Brussels, has now<sup>2</sup> given a new explanation of these remarkable movements, namely, that they are due to hydrotropism, and his facts are the following: China clay, which is very hygroscopic, attracts energetically, but china exhibits no attraction; agate, which is very hygroscopic,<sup>3</sup> strongly attracts the filaments, while rock-crystal does not exhibit any effect, owing to its non-hygroscopic properties. The sporangium-bearers, being thus a fine reagent on hygroscopic power, were used by Errera to test that property on camphor; this substance is, in fact, hygroscopic.—BAY.

THE FOLLOWING extract from the annual report of the President of Harvard University is of interest to botanists: "On the death of Dr. Watson, Curator of the Herbarium from 1874 to 1892, Benjamin Lincoln Robinson, Ph. D., was appointed Curator, and in August last Mr. Henry E. Seaton, who had been instructor in botany and Curator of the Herbarium at the University of Indiana, was appointed Assistant Curator for the current academic year. It was also possible to appoint more assistants than ever before. The liberal gifts to the Herbarium for immediate use, and the good income from Professor Asa Gray's copyrights (\$2,817.33 in 1892) permit this increase of expenditure at the Herbarium. The result has been a great increase of the work accomplished, over 20,000 plants having been added to the collection during the year. Moreover, it has become possible for the Curator to resume work on the Synoptical Flora of North America, the great work first interrupted by the death of Dr. Gray, and then by the death of Dr. Watson. In the present debates about botanical nomenclature, it will be the policy of the Herbarium to act a conservative part; no serious departure will be made from the nomenclature thus far used in the Herbarium and in the published works of its Director and Curators."

<sup>1</sup> Ueber physiologische Fernwirkung einger Koerper. Helsingfors, 1890,  
<sup>2</sup> plates.

<sup>2</sup> On the cause of physiological action at a distance. Annals of Botany, vi, 373 (1892).

<sup>3</sup> Jhmori: Weidemann's Annalen, 1887.